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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 09/682,627 Confirmation No. 2280
Applicant : Masakazu Karita
Filed : October 1, 2001
T.C./A.U. : 3736
Examiner : Brian Scott Szmal
Docket No. : 31,001-AG
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113
AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)

Sir:

In response to the Office action of January 21, 2004 reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, amended as follows, is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.